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Weaknesses in Leadership of Dimitrov Youth League

Rabotnichesko Delo, Sofia, 24 Oct 1951

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WEAKNESSES IN LEADERSHIP OF DIMITROV YOUTH LEAGUE --

Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo, 24 Sept 51

Learning from the experience of the Soviet Communist Party (bolsheviks) and following the instructions of Comrade Georgi Dimitrov, the Bulgarian Communist Party considers youth to be a conscientious and active builder of the new socialist society and a courageous fighter for the socialist cause.

Through the Dimitrov Youth League DSNM the BCP spreads its influence over the large masses of Bulgarian working and studying youth, drafts them for building their socialist Fatherland and educates them to be ready to defend what they are building. Without the guidance of the BCP the Dimitrov Youth League cannot succeed in its work among youth. The most important and chief consideration in all Dimitrov Youth League activities is that the Party should be the guiding factor in them. To assure this is the task of the communists in the administrative bodies of the Dimitrov Youth League and of Party committees and organizations.

Comrade Vulko Chervenkov says: "The task of the primary Party organizations is to combat any underestimation of trade unions, youth, and Fatherland organizations in their capacity of mighty transmission belts which bind the Party -- the advance guard -- with the working class -- the working masses. It is their duty to help and assist them with all their might and to direct and guide their work on our common and great objective -- the building of socialist society."

Notwithstanding the considerable general improvement in Party guidance of the Dimitrov Youth League, certain Party committees and organizations still tolerate an inexcusable

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underestimation of the work of the Dimitrov Youth League, in spite of the special decisions of the CC of the BCP and the Third Party Congress. They have also been unable to provide a number of local, okoliya and okrug organizations of the Dimitrov Youth League with Party guidance and assistance.

One of the basic factors in assuring the guiding role of the Party among youth is the establishment of a communist bulwark in the Dimitrov Youth League itself. The Party must send in to its organizations and administrative bodies a sufficient number of young communists who will direct all youth activities and will explain and propagate the policies of the Party and the government among youth. It is to be regretted that there are still entire okrug Party organizations which do not pay enough attention to increasing the number of Party members in the Dimitrov Youth League. Only a small number of communists have been assigned or dispatched to work among youth in Burgas and Sofia okrugs.

Certain Party committees and organizations do not carry out the resolution of the CC of the BCP of 11 February 1949 according to which members and candidates of the Party who are less than 23 years old (now, according to a new resolution of the CC of the BCP, younger than 26) as a rule remain at work in the Dimitrov Youth League. On the other hand the insufficient number of communists at work in the Dimitrov Youth League is a sign of serious weaknesses in the activity of recruiting Party candidates from the ranks of youth. In a number of Party organizations there is no evidence of systematic and persistent work in recruiting Party candidates from amongst those members of the Dimitrov Youth League who

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have distinguished themselves with labor achievements in plants, farm workers' cooperatives, machine-tractor stations and on state farms, and who have already given proof of their devotion to the Party and of being worthy of the great honor of membership in the BCP. During an entire year in the Chervenkov Rayon Party organization at Sofia only four candidates under 23 years of age were accepted, and in a number of village Party organizations no members of the Dimitrov Youth League have been accepted as members of the BCP.

The Party consolidates its influence among youth and assures the education of large masses of youth in Marxism-Leninism by sending propagandists from the ranks of its politically and theoretically well-trained members, to guide political organizations and political schools for youth.

A number of Party committees, however, have not taken the trouble to see to it that a sufficient number of communist propagandists are at work among youth. In Ruse Okrug communist propagandists constitute barely 2 percent of the total number of administrators of youth organizations and political schools for youth, and in Dimitrov Okoliya there is not a single propagandist in the Dimitrov Youth League who is a member or candidate of the Party.

At the Third Party Congress Comrade Vulko Chervenkov pointed out the responsibilities of communists who work in mass Party organizations. They must press onward, must set an example by observing labor and state discipline, win over non-party workers by their own conduct, work constantly to create closer ties with them and explain to them the real meaning of Party decisions. The keeping aloof from non-party persons by communists is something alien to bolshevism.

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Comrade Vulko Chervenkov says: "It must not be forgotten that the center of our Party activity is in the primary Party organization, in strengthening the ties between communists and non-party persons and in the individual contribution of each communist".

A number of Party committees and bureaus of primary Party organizations do not work systematically with the communists who are engaged in active work in the Dimitrov Youth League. The latter are not asked to account for the way they work in the Dimitrov Youth League and how they unite the efforts of youth in solving the problems posed by the Party and the government. One of the facts which explains disruption in the work of communists assigned to responsible work among youth is that they are taken away from their immediate jobs for weeks and even months at a time and used as instructors or "representatives" of Party committees and people's soviets. This has become an almost regular practice, as in the case of the Stara-Zagora Okrug Party organization.

The Party's taking care of the education of administrative youth personnel and of youth activists is extremely important in improving the all-around activity of the League. In this the personal participation of responsible party workers at the most important stages of the work of youth organizations and committees is of great importance. Secretaries and members of bureaus of Party committees must attend the meetings and sessions of committees of the Dimitrov Youth League (okrug, okoliya, city committees), more frequently and extend practical assistance to them on the spot. The topmost Party

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workers in a given Okrug or Okoliya must speak regularly before meetings of the youth activists in order to explain the resolutions of the CC of the BCP and the government and to point out what the contribution of youth should be in carrying them out. At these meetings of youth activists the more important decisions of the various Party committees and questions on the internal and international situation of the country should also be clarified. A number of local Party committees and organizations do not proceed in this way in their respective areas. The primary Party organizations must organize joint general meetings with youth organizations for discussing important questions and must invite the members of the Dimitrov Youth League to their public meetings.

Till very recently the Vidin Okoliya Party committee was guilty of these same shortcomings. It was a regular occurence for even the plenary meetings of the okoliya committee of the Dimitrov Youth League to be held without the active participation of Party officials. The Party committee secretary, who is in charge of propaganda and agitation was present at the plenary meeting of the okoliya committee of the Dimitrov Youth League which took place in April of this year, but he had not taken the trouble to acquaint himself in advance with the questions to be discussed at the meeting. However, it is well known that a representative of the Party is obliged to express not only his personal opinion but above all the Party's point of view. In this particular case the proper thing to do would have been for the entire bureau of the Party committee to have discussed the questions to be taken up at the meeting. But even if that had not been

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done the secretary should have thoroughly acquainted himself with the work before the meeting and expressed his opinion on the questions under discussion. Instead, he only listened to the report and spoke a few words of greeting, after which he left on the pretext of "important party work" awaiting him.

Because of this attitude of the former bureau of the Vidin Okoliya Party committee and its former secretaries things went so far that the secretary of the okoliya committee of the Dimitrov Youth League had to wait for hours before the door of the okoliya Party committee before being received. It is not at all surprising that in view of all this the comrades on the okoliya committee of the Dimitrov Youth League worked with very little enthusiasm and had no close ties with youth. The organizations of the Dimitrov Youth League in the okoliya were in a very unsatisfactory situation.

Only the active and direct study of the work capabilities of youth workers in actual practical work will enable the Party committees to extend more fruitful assistance to the League and will help create in the Dimitrov Youth League a strong group of communists and non-party youth. This will be a guarantee for the strengthening of the bonds between Party and the working youth masses.

The study of questions of interest to youth and concrete Party guidance of youth organizations requires that Party leaders be in personal contact with youth, participate in the mass youth demonstrations which they organize, and follow closely the development of the youth movement. Can we believe that the Stalin Okrug Party committee is care-

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fully guiding the youth organization in the okrug if it is known that some of the members of its bureau are not acquainted with the members of the okrug committee's bureau of the Dimitrov Youth League and that the last secretary of propaganda and agitation of the Party committee, Comrade Vasil Dermendzhiev, was not acquainted with the secretary for propaganda and agitation of the okrug committee of the Dimitrov Youth League? As a consequence the comrades who work on the okrug committee of the Dimitrov Youth League do not seek the advice of the Party committee on activities of the League, are afraid of going over to the Party committee and do not feel at home on its premises.

The majority of Party committees do occupy themsleves quite regularly at their sessions and plenary meetings with questions about work among youth. It must be stated, however, that at the sessions of the Party committee's bureaus and at the plenary meetings which discuss work with youth, the weaknesses of Party committees and organizations in this work are insufficiently analyzed and the stress is laid on the activities of the Dimitrov Youth League itself. It is absolutely necessary for Party committees to evaluate the work done by youth leaders and youth organizations and to demand information from them on different questions, but this is only one side of the problem of Party guidance of the Dimitrov Youth League. The other side, which does not receive the attention it deserves, is how Party committees and organizations collaborate with the youth leaders and organizations concerned and what assistance they extend them in solving problems that face them. It is a common occurrence for Dimi-

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trov Youth League organizations not to be shown the obligations they have in the solution of one or another political or economic problem.

The systematic, diligent and complete execution of the decisions of the CC of the BCP for improving the administration of the Dimitrov Youth League is a primary duty of Party committees and organizations. This must be kept in mind by them especially during the coming reports and elections in the Dimitrov Youth League and in assisting the League in its work during the political school year that has already started.

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